DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Eapen, those were wise and weighty words that you uttered on the subject of recruitment and, like all people who learn from the past and think of the future, you advocate that communal representation should be done away with entirely and that some other form of recruitment should be substituted. You have considered the question of a staff selection board. You point out the difficulties in the way. I gather you do not hold it as a practicable and a workable expedient. You advocate competitive examinations supplemented by some agency for making selections from the backward classes. How far that arrangement will be welcomed in the country is a doubtful matter. All that we can do at present is to await the development of that spirit of fairness and fair play of which I see indications already in the various departments. I shall consider your suggestion in all seriousness.

I do not know that there is so much avarice and lack of sympathy as you indicate in the Medical Department. I know of a few instances that came to my notice where medical officers have shown lack of sympathy, a tendency to pay more attention to the well-to-do than to the poor. Every such officer knows what will overtake him if he persists in that course and I hope before long you will find a general improvement.

186. Public service.

MR. K. N. MADHAVA KARTA (*Member, Shertallai taluk, Group II*) said that he was glad to find in the Dewan's address the announcement about the entertainment of women in some departments. The policy announced was a good one. But it was necessary to go the whole hog with it and to appoint women in all departments including probably even the Police Department. The member had received a mandate from some women to represent their cause before the Assembly and it was in accordance with this mandate that he was speaking on the subject.

Secondly, he referred to the Judicial Department and said that the public were for many reasons losing their faith in the highest judicial tribunal of the State. There was no consistency in the judgments of that tribunal. Principles and views changed almost from day to day. The disposal of suits was also very slow. The same lethargy existed in the lower courts. So far as these courts were concerned, promotions generally went by seniority. Efficiency and character were at a discount. In such a state of affairs judges and Munsiffs naturally became idle, and the public suffered.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Madhava Karta, I do not suppose you expect any reply from me on the subject of your representation in regard to the appointment of qualified women in all departments of the State. I feel that you have done your duty in making the representation.

Turning to the recruitment in the Judicial Department, the whole question is now under consideration and, I hope, before very long, to have revised rules upon the subject brought into force.

187. Reform of the administration.

MR. K. NARAYANA PANICKAR (*Member, Karthikapalli taluk*) said that the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly should be reconstituted on a statutory basis. Elections for the Assembly should be held once in three years. The franchise also should be lowered. In regard to the powers of the Assembly, the introduction, modification or abrogation of any law should be made only with its consent.

The member next dealt with the Agricultural Department and said that the department should devote better attention to the eradication of the cocoanut pests.

So far as the Revenue Department was concerned, the member proposed the enhancement of the pay of the pakuthi staff. In the matter of disposal of Sirkar lands, the member urged for the registry of these lands in the names of the poor and landless people in small blocks of 10 acres each.

The next subject dealt with by the member was the reform of the Education Department. The present system of education should be revised and the study of agriculture and industry should be made compulsory in all schools. The vernacular

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

should be given greater importance in the curriculam of studies. In fact all subjects except the English language should be taught in Malayalam. The pay of vernacular school teachers should be raised. Incidentally the member also pleaded for the use of Malayalam for all proceedings in the Legislative Council and the Assembly.

In regard to educational institutions Government should afford proper encouragement to private schools. The Nair Service Society was now putting up a school at Haripad. Government had given some timber at concessional price for the school and thought they had done them a very great help. It was not, however, such a great thing that the Government had done. They should do some more substantial help to the school.

Finally, in order to relieve the unemployment among educated men, the member suggested that Government should open their own factories for spinning, weaving, soap-making etc. and employ these young men in the institutions. All our young men would thus get employment and then unemployment would be a thing of the past.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Narayana Panikkar, your representation that the voting qualification should be altered will receive the attention of Government when next the question of franchise comes up for revision.

The Department of Agriculture is doing its best to discover ways and means of eradicating the disease of the cocoanut palm. You cannot expect success in a day. They are trying to find remedies and in respect of one or two diseases they have been successful.

You ask that the pay of the pakuthi staff should be revised. I do not know whether you mean by this the Proverthikar or the subordinate establishment. If you refer to Proverthikars, I may say that their pay has been raised only last year.

The question of the Education Department and its reorganisation will be taken up when a committee or other agency is appointed to investigate into the question and that, as you will see from the address, will be taken up after the Unemployment Committee's report is received.

You have not mentioned in your list of subjects the subject of puduval lands. You urge the registry of puduvals in 10 acre blocks. The Puduval Rules will shortly be taken up for revision and your suggestion will be considered then.

188. Administrative reforms.

MR. C. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Member, Tiruvalla taluk, Group II*) said that excise revenue held a prominent place in the receipts of the State. Of the total revenue of Rs. 238½ laks in 1102, no less than Rs. 52 lakhs was derived from the Excise Department. Of the Rs. 52 lakhs, Rs. 10 lakhs represented the receipts from the sale of arrack. These figures, for a small State like Travancore, presented an appalling spectacle. It was the duty of the State to change this situation. The sale of intoxicants should be rigorously reduced, if not prohibited.

Market dues constituted another pernicious source of revenue to the State. The State derived about Rs. 73,000 from this item in 1102. Most of this huge sum was the result of exaction from poor people. It would be a noble act of Government to abolish this iniquitous impost.

Tolls on vehicles stood in the same plane. The income from this source in 1102 was Rs. 2½ lakhs. It was not necessary at present to abolish the system in its entirety. It would do if the method of assessment was altered. Under the present system many vehicles could evade payment. There were in fact several such instances in Kottayam and Ettumanur. It would therefore be better if every bus owner was required to pay an amount annually.

In order to improve the tone of the general administration, an Executive Council should be established. It might probably be contended that no such drastic reform was possible during the Regency period. But the establishment of an Exe-

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly